

Mar 13 1964

F-9-R-12 Southwest Montana Fishery Study.

Job I. Inventory of the Waters in the Project Area.

Stream Survey.

The objectives are to determine the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of streams of importance to the recreational fishery of the project area. Since wild gamefish provide the bulk of the fishery in our streams, emphasis is being placed on sampling the fish populations on certain waters to determine species composition, standing crops, and natural reproduction. This information is gathered by shocking 300-500 foot sections of streams ~~which are~~ <sup>which are</sup> blocked by nets. Five streams were sampled last year, four were in the upper Beaverhead drainage and one was in the Madison Valley near Ennis. Fair to excellent wild gamefish populations were found in these streams. A heavily fished section of the stream in the Madison Valley was found to contain more catchable sized wild trout toward the end of the fishing season than before it commenced. More streams and stream sections will be added to the program as time warrents. Streams requiring special attention will also be surveyed.

Shocking is done on larger rivers to determine species composition, age and growth, and relative abundance of game fish populations. Portions of the Madison and Beaverhead Rivers were sampled last year. Many game fish were caught indicating a good fish population in these rivers. Attempts will be made to sample the Big Hole River this year.